Equal Rights

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LEGAL DIVISION

Photo by Harris and Ewing.

Rejoicing at the winning of jury service for women in the District of Columbia, members of the National Woman's Party thank Senator Capper of Kansas and Representative Lineberger of California, who introduced the bill in Congress at their request. The bill was drafted by Burnita Shelton Matthews and was signed by President Coolidge on February 26.

Those in the group are, from left to right, Mrs. Pearl Bellman Klein, Miss Maud Younger (Congressional Chairman of the Woman's Party), Senator Capper of Kansas, Representative Lineberger of California, Miss Grace Osgood, Miss Jennie O. Berliner and Mrs. Harvey Wiley.

Feminist Notes

Chinese Woman Wins Right to Study

THE right of a widow to attend school rather than return to her native village and adopt the son of her brother-in-law has been upheld by the Municipal Court of Canton, China.

The woman student is Yen Ping, who is attending the Judicial Official Training Institute. She brought charges against her brother-in-law, alleging that he not only was trying to force her to go back to her native village and adopt his son, but that also he was trying to seize property left by her husband.

The brother-in-law was summoned by the Municipal Court and was very firm in stating his case. He insisted that it was only right and proper that Yen Ping should return to the village and adopt his son. Yen Ping, however, insisted that she wanted to continue with her studies, and that anyway she had a son of her own.

The court upheld her. It decided that the man was unreasonable and that Yen Ping should be at liberty to continue with her studies if she wished.

Woman Diplomat Promoted

LUCILLE ATCHERSON, third secretary of legation at Berne, Switzerland, the first woman appointed to the United States diplomatic service, is to be transferred to Panama as secretary of the legation in that city. She has been serving at Berne since July, 1924. The transfer, which is regarded as a promotion, will be made in the next few weeks.

England's First Woman Vet.

THE first woman in England to have conferred upon her the degree of Bachelor of Veterinary Science, Edith Gertrude Knight of Bruton, was loudly cheered by the men students when she was graduated recently.

Since she was eighteen, Miss Knight has been accustomed to wearing men's clothes. She wore plus fours and Norfolk jacket under her graduating robes.

Miss Millay's Opera

EDNA ST. VINCENT MILLAY, poet, dramatist, and Feminist, who is an associate editor of EQUAL RIGHTS, is the author of the libretto of what the New York *Times* calls the most important American opera ever produced. "The King's Henchman," work of Miss Millay and Deems Taylor, has been given a magnificent reception by the critics. The New York *World* says that the greater part of the partnership rested upon Miss Millay's shoulders. The *Nation* compares Miss Millay's lines to Shakespeare.

Woman Seeks Flier's License

PHOEBE FIARGRAVE OMLIE of Memphis, Tennessee, is the first American woman to apply for a Federal license as an airplane operator. In her application she said that she had flown 200 hours.

Suffrage Proposed in Argentine

FOR the first time in South America a proposal has been made to give women equal voting privileges with men. The Argentina convention for the reform of the Constitution of the Province of San Juan would include the suffrage provision in the proposed new constitution.

The Leisured Woman Again

TIME AND TIDE, Lady Rhondda's paper, recently published the following editorial on the menace of the leisured woman:

"The last word has not yet been said about the leisured woman. An effective addition to the discussions surrounding her 'menace to society' was provided last Monday by Dr. Isabel Turnadge, speaking at the Six Point Group on 'Marriage or Career.' The notorious case of the dismissal of Dr. Turnadge from the post of headmistress of Twickenham High School, not because she was incompetent, but because she was married, and, being married, not unnaturally became also a mother, aroused the attention of many people to the fact the education authorities upon such occasions tend to exceed their duties. They are, they declare, taking a 'large view' of the situation by providing posts for unmarried women; they are still further endeavoring to make a happier nation by seeing that one or two women at least are kept in the home which is supposed to be a paradise for them. But Dr. Turnadge also suggested one more reason for their action. Most of the men on the committee which dismissed her were married. They were almost certainly married to leisured women. And leisured women have to assure their husbands continually that they are very busy. So that one ingenuous remark was finally made, not to her, but to another married professional woman, 'I can't think how you run a home and your work. My wife has three maids and she is busy running up and down after them all the time.' From such homes come, after all, most of the men who govern the girls' secondary schools in England. It is not wonderful that our educational authorities should sometimes appear a little backward."

Turkish Women's Progress Commemorated

THE progress of Turkish women will be depicted in a monument of unusual size and grandeur soon to be erected in Constantinople. One side of the monument will depict the "Phazi" leading the army of revolution, and the other will show him in civilian dress, while two sides of the monument will be devoted to Turkish women. The eastern side will bear the figure of a woman heavily veiled, and the western side will depict the Turkish woman with her veil symbolically lifted by the wind.

Only four months ago the Mohammedan traditions prohibiting representations of the human form were thrown into the discard by a statue of Mustapha Kemal Pasha, president of the new Turkish Republic.

Indian Women's Conference

THE first All-India Conference of Women was held at Poona on January 5th. It was the climax of the series of women's conferences held in various parts of India during the past few months, and is the outcome of efforts by Indian women to co-ordinate their social and educational work. Delegates from all parts of India attended the conference.

Married Women and the Imperial Conference

THE following comment appears in *The Woman's Leader* (England) of November 26:

"It is a very great disappointment that in the report of the Committee on Nationality of the Imperial Conference, presided over by the Home Secretary, whose terms of reference included passports and the nationality of married women, the committee does not seem to have considered the question of the nationality of married women at all. It recommended only resolutions dealing with the nationality of children, the interpretation of the British Nationality (Status of Aliens) Act, 1914, and registration. The problem of nationality of married women was not even mentioned. The nearest approach is a recommendation that a widow of a deceased British subject by naturalization may have her certificate of naturalization revoked by the Home Secretary. This complete ignoring of the request for a revision in the laws so as to enable a married woman to have the same rights to retain or change her nationality as a man, shows an intolerable disregard of the wishes of the organized women of the Empire."

Sees Same Responsibility as Price of Sex Equality

"IF women accept the privileges of sex equality, then they must share the responsibilities of it."

As charming and dainty and feminine a woman as ever delighted the heart of grandad back in the dear old dead and gone dependent days—for the past tense heaven be praised—insists this is the only way in which men and women can arrive at a proper appreciation and understanding of each other.

A share and share alike basis, plus and minus.

Mrs. Clarence M. Smith, chairman of the New York State Executive Committee of the National Woman's Party, sounds the slogan.

Do not lose interest in Mrs. Smith's case by reason of the formidable sound of her title. And don't leap to the conclusion that all members of women's parties sound off on soapboxes and wave banners. The attractive lady chairman of the State organization wants it strictly understood she is not a reformer. All she asks is an even break for women.

LEGISLATION in which she is at present intensely interested is: A bill fixing an equal penalty for men and women in the matter of sexual commercialization; equal opportunity for men and women teachers; Equal Rights in the guardianship of minor children; women and men placed on a basis of equality for jury service.

"Under the present New York State law," explains Mrs. Smith, "only a woman can commit a legal offense by commercializing her sex. I do not say that either man or woman should be arrested and punished for such commitment. But if one is made to pay then the other should suffer a like penalty.

"WE have managed to put through the equal pay legislation for teachers. The next step is that of equal opportunity. In many of the smaller cities of the State women are dropped from a teaching roll when they marry. Men are not so penalized.

"Strange enough, many unmarried teachers subscribe to this practice. They contend when a woman teacher marries her husband should support her and she should make way for a single wage-earner. This is obviously unfair. In many cases it militates against marriage. A woman teacher may have parents or other relatives dependent upon her earnings. Her husband may not be able to assume these responsibilities.

By Jane Dixon

(*Reprinted from the New York Telegram, Tuesday, February* 22, 1927.)

"Teaching should be a matter of merit, not of marriage. There are only a few, a very few, women superintendents in the schools. Not so many more principals. Not a woman on the Board of Regents, which controls the entire State educational system.

"Men educators come before the legislators and howl 'We must have more red-blooded men in the schools.' Such a contention is absurd. Women are just as red-blooded as men. Promotion should be based on capacity, and on nothing else."

The thoughtful blue eyes of the executive chairman took on the light of battle as she spoke. She moved forward in the deep armchair of her homey apartment in the upper east side. The flush of enthusiasm stained her fair cheeks.

"Now about minor children," she continued. "Do you know that a father can sue for the loss of the labor and services of a child, but that a mother can not so recover? And that money collected from such a suit belongs to the father. Men have said to me: 'Yes, but why shouldn't the father take such money? He supports the child.' My answer to that is: 'Does he support the child? Or does he do half of the supporting and the mother do the other half?'

"FOR example, a wife and mother I know did very excellent work during the war. Afterward an organization begged her to go to another city and inaugurate her system in their industry. She explained it was impossible for her to accept, because she must care for her house and children. Finally, she agreed to take the position. She was paid $170 a month. Her husband made $150 a month. Her services in the home were worth more than those of her husband. She gave, in actual dollars, more to the support of the home and family than he.

"The law says that the services of the wife belong to her husband. If she takes roomers or boarders in her house her husband may demand and receive the money thus earned. Wages earned through the work of caring for them belong to the husband, even though he be a lazy lout. The only way this injustice may be obviated under the existing law is if husband and wife sign a written agreement stating the wife's earnings belong to her exclusively. Very few women know of this written agreement safeguard."

Mrs. Smith sees no reason why there should be more hardship connected with jury service for women than with the same service for men.

"A majority of men find every possible excuse to shirk their citizen duty when it comes to serving on juries," she declares. "Granted that any number of women would be compelled to seek exemption because of their home demands, are there not any number of men who are excused because of professional duties—doctors, lawyers, ministers, teachers, business agents?

"GRANTED again that the majority of women do not want to serve on juries. Is that a proper excuse? How many men want to serve? Duty compels them to pay citizen tribute in service. Duty places the same obligation on women citizens.

"Twenty States compel women to do jury duty the same as men. In other States service of women is optional. I am firmly against this optional clause. If women must keep the law the same as men they they must help administer the law the same as men. We do not want privilege. We want equality. Nothing less, nothing more."

Mrs. Smith explained that in putting through the legislation fixing equal pay for teachers, the Woman's Party was aided and staunchly backed by Governor Smith, who is favorably disposed toward the fifty-fifty status of men and women workers.

"The trouble is," said Mrs. Smith, "this and that legislator in Albany will admit the justice of our cause but will explain he can not act in the matter because his constituents are opposed. Whereupon we must set forth and convert an army of constituents. It takes time, but we will succeed.

"There are at present on the statutes of the State nine important laws affecting equality of the sexes which have been written there by the Woman's Party, their friends and allies. Before we put aside our fighting togs there will be others, until the equality status is fully established.

"Let the bridge-playing inconsequentials who don't want to serve their community, their commonwealth, their country, go on counting their 'rubbers.' They don't matter in the least. Anyhow, they are passee, dead leaves rattling on the vine of life."

IF all the bigger and better service women were as gracious, as intelligent, as reasonable and as determined as the New York State chairman, the task would be a short and a merry one.

Equal Rights

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Edith Houghton Hooker . . . Editor
Dora G. Ogle . . . Business Manager

Associate Editors:

Nina E. Allender	Ruth Hale
Zoe Beckley	Inez Haynes Irwin
Ruby A. Black	Ada Davenport Kendall
Elaine Sterne Carrington	Katherine Leckie
Lucia Chamberlain	Hazel MacKaye
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Rose Feld	Miriam Finn Scott
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Rebecca Hourwich	Brenda Ueland

Mary Winsor

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OBJECT OF THE WOMAN'S PARTY

To remove all forms of the subjection of women.

THE LUCRETIA MOTT AMENDMENT

"Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction."

"Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

[Senate Joint Resolution Number 11.
House Joint Resolution Number 81.]

Introduced in the Senate, December 8, 1925, by Senator Charles E. Curtis.
Introduced in the House of Representatives, December 16, 1925, by Representative D. R. Anthony.

The Last Straw

MANY and strange are the disabilities attached to being a woman, but now, according to press dispatches, comes a new one that surpasses them all. Women teachers in the District of Columbia schools are, it appears, to be taxed 30 per cent. higher than men for retirement benefits under the new school retirement law. This, forsooth, among other reasons, because they live longer than men after they reach the retirement age and take longer to attain maximum salaries. The latter reason seems to us peculiarly fallacious, not to say invidious.

When asked the basis of the apparent discrimination District Auditor Donovan said, "Men attain maximum salaries earlier than women, and therefore contribute at the maximum for a longer period. Our effort is to have each group contribute exactly the same proportion of the probable benefits."

But why group teachers according to sex? Certainly some women have the ambition and the native endowment requisite for the attainment of maximum salaries at an earlier age than some men. Why then should these women along with the others be penalized by the higher tax?

Moreover, some men never attain maximum salaries at all, being but transients in the profession, with their eyes forever cocked for a more remunerative job.

We confess that we cannot follow Mr. Donovan's reasoning. It seems to us as absurd to make sex the criterion for retirement taxation as it would be to choose weight or complexion as the standard. Verily the mind of man is beyond the range of our female intellect.

The Missing Link

IN ORDER to demonstrate to our readers, both at home and abroad, the quality of the opposition to the Equal Rights movement, we reprint in full an editorial that appeared in the Baltimore *Evening Sun* on March 2, 1927, as follows:

STILL PLURAL.

While other commonwealths, like so many greedy catfish, gobble up any bait the forward lookers, the evangels of progress and the heralds of the millennial dawn may cast their way, the grand old Free State of Maryland clings persistently, militantly, to its beloved conservatism. Waves of social, moral and political fads and fancies beat against that bulkhead of sanity only to be thrown off as ineffectual spray. Gents of vision paw the air in frantic efforts to point out new paths to perfection; ladies imbued with the spirit of freedom march around the walls of the citadel beating their tomtoms like so many female Joshuas, but the walls fail to crumble.

With which few mixed but fervid metaphors we wish to invite attention to the fact that the Legislature yesterday committeed the Free State definitely and again to two sexes. Let others shut their eyes to nature's immemorial scheme if they will, but not the Maryland Free State. It has killed two measures—the one putting women eligible for jury duty on an equality with male citizens, the other wiping out all the fine legal discriminations which differentiate the male and the female.

Fine business, say we. We love the two sexes our infancy knew. We treasure the idea that there is a female of the species to be set apart and adored. Long may she wave!

We regard this editorial as a classic, a verbal gem that should be treasured for posterity, for it not only exemplifies to perfection the kind of English uesd in the editorials of some American dailies in the year 1927, but it also portrays with striking vividness the cerebration of neolithic man. With the advance of evolution it becomes continually more difficult to reconstruct and visualize the mental processes of our prehistoric forefathers. *"Still Plural"* is in this respect a significant aid. A perusal of it fills us with the same sort of sheer delight that we should experience upon seeing a fossil move.

The content of the last paragraph is charming, especially the subtle and appropriate reference to the moss covered bucket. Apparently the writer of the editorial is still unaware of the fact that one of the sexes his infancy knew has, since that remote period, acquired the right of suffrage. No longer is the female of the species set apart from the ballot box; from that vantage ground she will in all probability wave long and merrily to her adorer, remembering that in days gone by there were other editorial writers who entertained singular fears about the plural.

Is the Leisured Woman a Menace?

By Helen A. Archdale

LISTENERS and that new breed listeners-in heard a display of verbal pyrotechnics in London in the last week of January, when Mr. Bernard Shaw, most brilliant of men, presided over a debate between Lady Rhondda, most brilliant of women, and Mr. G. K. Chesterton, a very good third. The debate was the outcome of a series of articles entitled "The Menace of the Leisured Woman," written by Lady Rhondda under the pseudonym of "Candida." Mr. Chesterton had been moved to reply and Lady Rhondda challenged him to public debate on the question "Is the leisured woman a menace to civilization?" a challenge accepted. Mr. Shaw, benign but biting, consented to be in the chair. All seats in the large Kingsway Hall were sold long before the day and all were occupied and standing room packed long before the hour.

Lady Rhondda's argument was that idleness was bad for everyone, but that, under present conditions, it was peculiarly dangerous for women. Woman, she claimed, has in idleness a greater power for harm than man. She is listened to in the governing class, deference is paid to her, her advice and opinions are accepted as being the opinions of all women. In provincial towns, in suburbs, she fills and kills time by talk about the affairs of others or by active interference, under some philanthropic guise, with the affairs of others. Her danger is that she is all pervasive and that her opinions, whether good or bad, and her actions, also, whether good or bad, are fastened on to "woman." She is very busy doing nothing of any value to herself or to anyone else. She often uses her domestic duties as an excuse for idling three-quarters of the day. Lady Rhondda disapproved of woman taking refuge in the "home" like a "shrinking snail" and also of the suggestion that to bring up another generation was all sufficing; here she quoted an 1870 writer: "Like hammers eternally producing more hammers, but never doing anything as hammers."

Mr. Chesterton played wittily with visions of the "home," an ideally harmonious place with a charming garden in which women, when they walked in it, were "an ornament to the world." The home is the only refuge left where man can think and speak and do as he likes, the only oasis in the desert of capitalism, the only place where one "can continue to live the original human life." He thought that Lady Rhondda, in urging that women should come out of the home, was making the mistake of substituting service to the community, which to him was horrible, for service to the home, which to him was beautiful.

Mr. Shaw said that one thing was clear, that neither of the debaters was a philanthropist. He agreed with Mr. Chesterton that in the ideal state, the Socialist state, all would be well, which gave Lady Rhondda the opportunity of a telling, final word. She said that women had too often been prevented from action and advance by being told that if they only waited, all would be well; waited for this international crisis to pass, for that system to change, for this government to go out of power, for that government to come into power. No, she added, women were going to change things for themselves.

Italy Represented on International Advisory Council

By Anita Pollitzer

THREE Italian Feminists, distinguished in different fields, have recently joined the International Advisory Committee of the National Woman's Party, to co-operate in the campaign to establish complete equality for men and women.

These new members who come on our Advisory Committee are Dr. Teresa Labriola, professor of philosophy of law at the University of Rome, president of the Judicial Committee of the National Council of Italian women and a practicing attorney. Dr. Sandesky-Scelba, physician, vice-president of the Association of University Women of Rome, and former vice-president of the National Council of Italian women, and Maria A. Loschi, author, journalist and editor of the Feminist section of "La Donna Italiana."

In meeting these and other European women leaders, I am each time forcibly impressed with the fact that practically every European woman who calls herself a Feminist, considers equality in the economic field as essential, and relegates the whole theory of protection as just another device to exclude women from equal opportunity.

Each of these three women voiced this belief in a different way. Maria A. Lochi, who is constantly writing in behalf of Equal Rights for Italian women, said with finality: "Protection is too old a word for me, and more than that, it's a terrible word. It always implies a difference. Internationally it means power for one, tyranny for the other. Between people it means a struggle, and the last thing on earth we want is a continued sex-fight. For protection I substitute the modern word equality," she went on spiritedly. "All the world is coming to be based on equality."

BORN of an old Italian family which has given many dukes and bishops to Italy, Maria Loschi, by birth a countess, is a busy professional woman. She speaks and writes six languages as fluently as her own, is teacher of French to the Royal Princess, has written a book on the position of women in the Syndicates which has attracted wide notice. She was sent by the Italian Government to Germany, with the Plebicite Commission, at which time she was chief of the press bureau for the International Committee. She was sent as special envoy by the Italian Government to the United States in 1918, to aid one of the editors of *La Donna Italiana,* study conditions and establish closer relations. Now Signorina Loschi is a journalist, and one of the editors of *La Donna Italiana.*

I talked with her about the recent law excluding women from the ranks of teachers of literature, history and philosophy in secondary and college preparatory schools. "They can pass all the laws they want, but the fact *is* who is preparing men, if not women," she said. She then showed me her articles in the daily journals. "The anti-Feminist current which sometimes seems to be growing stronger, will only spur women to greater determination in every field. When we're facing the problem of work, it must be entirely a question of production and the quality of work produced, and not the sex of the worker."

"And as for our international contracts and friendships," she added, when we spoke of her joining our Advisory Committee, "they must be so strong and numerous that the network of feminist thought they create, will eventually encircle the world."

I had been told not to leave Rome without meeting Dr. Sandusky-Scelba, who has always been outstandingly courageous in her devotion to the interests of women. I was exceedingly glad I acted on that advice. Dr. Scelba, who is a prominent physician, former vice-chairman of the National Council of Women of Italy, vice-president for the League for the abolition of Houses of Prostitution, and doctor in the Children's Clinic of Rome, said with great earnestness: "I have said in every place in Italy—always—that before I am anything I am a Feminist. I am convinced that all the

arguments against equality and for protection are not so much a question of intelligence as of self-interest. When women have not the strength they will naturally not be able to work on an equal basis, but for women with strength and intellect there can be no basis on which the work of the world can be done but the basis of equality."

Dr. Teresa Labriola, through her own work as a lawyer, appreciated best, perhaps, the extent of the Woman's Party's research on the legal position of women. Among other things she told me were these facts which make clearer the position of women in Italy today.

IN law the position of the Italian woman, married or single, is practically equal to that of the man, as the legal code of Italy comes from the old Roman law formed at a period when women were almost entirely emancipated. In Italy today a woman, married or single, inherits on equal terms with a man. She has the disposition of her goods, which she can administer freely. She can be "tutor" just as a man. In obligations she has the same duties and the same rights. The power as "head of the family" belongs, in principle, as much to the woman as to the man. Article 220 of the Civil Code specifically states that the child, whatever be his position, owes honor and respect to the *parents*. This power, however, is exercised for the most part by the father during the marriage, and if he cannot exercise it, by the mother.

It appears in theory, that women have the same position as men in the syndicates, the political organizations, for expression in Italy today. Those women who are workers, and in the professions, are eligible to their syndicates on an equal basis with men, but the woman in the home who, as in nearly every country is considered "of no occupation," is not entitled to membership in a syndicate. A large group of women therefore are at the outset barred from even a nominal voice in public affairs.

The important thing to remember, however, is that the entire political, social and judicial organization is at present in the act of transformation.

"As to custom," said Dr. Labriola, "there is a vast difference between the position of women here, and under the law. The average Italian man, even when he knows the necessity of the work of women, and of women's rights — even when he recognizes great genius in his own daughters and in his pupils—is by *prejudice* anti-Feminist. To the prejudice which sometimes assumes the proportions of a faith, there is added the experience of the war with its aftermath of competition for employment. Custom is strongly against equal opportunity for women."

"But for the fact that women universally are still so subject to men in custom and law, we must blame women themselves," said Dr. Labriola. That many women of leisure and learning are indifferent to the fight of their own sex for independence seemed incomprehensible to her.

WHILE Dr. Labriola was signing her membership card in the Woman's Party she looked up, saying, "I cannot understand why every woman who has attained a position of eminence, even if she hasn't time to give much work, would not at least give her support and influence back of the program."

Every visit I have had with Feminists in Europe has made me feel the inevitability of a closer union for international action of those women of the old world and the new who wish to *end* the subjection of women. The tie that exists is each time strong enough to overstep any artificial barrier which geography, or language, or an immediate political situation may impose.

Straight away after the visit to Dr. Labriola and our talk of Roman matrons and more power for women, I came southward. Here I've been outdoors, talking a bit with the peasants and with the workers in the field. I have learned among other things, that some of the women who work for the silk houses in the small places, near Naples, earn two to three lire a day, while ten lire is the lowest wage ever heard of for a man in that same community. I am told that for farm work women receive fifteen to twenty lire a day while for the same work men receive twenty, twenty-five and thirty lire.

BUT a striking example of independence which makes an indelible impression on all of us happened this week on the narrow road between Amalfi and Sorrento. Crops are now being taken to market. For hours our car had been dodging donkeys and undecided drivers, and passing women in herds with backs bent in two over the family wash, when on the road, face upon us, came a young peasant woman pushing ahead of her a great cart of cabbages. One or the other of us had to take to the ditch. For her it might mean a loss of her wares—a whole season's existence to guard. She would take no chances. With one imperious wave she commanded our driver to the right. With a strength born of possessing and guarding a certain economic power—this girl, swinging herself and her cart along the highroad in a blaze of Italian sunshine—her soul singing out as clear as the picket banner, "Dare to be Free," strikingly symbolized a someday real independence for women.

Porto Rican Women and Suffrage

THE Liga Social Sufragista has sent to members of Congress a card bearing the following ten questions on woman suffrage for Porto Rico:

"Senator Bingham has introduced a bill granting the Porto Rican woman the right to vote. Before you make up your mind, will you please consider the following points:

"1. The Porto Rican woman is an American citizen. The American women in the continental United States have the right to vote. Why should not we?

"2. The teaching force in the public schools of Porto Rico consists of 5,000 teachers, out of which a large majority is composed of women. We hold important positions in the university, in the high schools, and in the elementary schools. If we educate the men, why should they alone make the laws?

"3. There is a large number of women holding positions in all the departments of the Government. They are doing their work well. Why should not women have the right to be represented in the legislative bodies of the country?

"4. We are participating actively in all civic enterprises: Red Cross work, social welfare activities, etc. If men believe that we are doing these things well, why don't they grant us the right to vote?

"5. Out of nearly 230,000 pupils enrolled in the public schools of Porto Rico, the majority are girls. Women are, therefore, preparing themselves for the exercise of citizenship in larger numbers than men.

"6. We mothers want to participate in the making of the laws by which our children are governed.

"7. We pay taxes. Why should not we have a voice in making the laws that fix the taxes?

"8. We have all the duties of citizens. We want all the rights of citizens.

"9. There are thousands of illiterate men who have the right to vote in Porto Rico. We do not object to that, but we believe that women should be given an equal opportunity.

"10. If you believe that our cause is good and vote in favor of the bill, the Liga Social Sufragista will greatly appreciate your interest."

The card bearing these points for the consideration of Senators and Congressmen is signed by Mrs. Ramos Casellas, president of the Liga Social Sufragista. Senator Bingham of Connecticut introduced the bill at the request of the National Woman's Party.

Physicians Testify Before Survey Commission

By Mrs. Lieber E. Whittic

AT a recent hearing held by the Industrial Survey Commission of New York State to examine the effects of existing legislation on industrial workers some significant testimony was offered by physicians familiar with health conditions of factory workers.

Dr. Horrigan, medical director of the Larkin Company, Buffalo, member of the State Society of Industrial Medicine, and its first president, stated that in this large mail-order house employing 2,000 women these workers had not been harmed by a schedule of fifty-four working hours during the three months of each year in which such a work period had been required of them.

He observed less applications for relief under the sick benefit provision of the company during the overtime months, the sick benefit fund being habitually filled up at that time.

Industrial women, he found in his extensive experience, to be more concerned about income than about hours, being especially anxious to work as much as possible if becoming mothers.

Questioned as to the factor of industrial strain as an important cause of sickness and absence from the plant, he replied that it is rare that women are required to work under such taxing conditions in modern plants that strain of their work affects their health more than any kind of occupation in or out of the home. He emphasized the opinion that the very best types of women are found in industrial plants, that they are improved by work and that girls are in much better physical condition after six months of factory work than after the same period of high school experience, the regular hours of work and sleep of the industrialist more than offsetting the social liberty of the student.

Dr. George R. Critchlow, also of Buffalo, a gynecologist, for ten years surgeon of the Erie County Hospital, and chief surgeon of Millard Fillmore Hospital, corroberated the opinion of Dr. Horrigan as to the superior physical condition of factory girls. He insisted that women of the leisure classes suffer a greater measure of ill health as the result of other causes than physical strain, giving venereal disease as the basic cause of 50 per cent. of their ills and childbearing as the cause of a large part of the balance.

In his hospital experience the working girl was a rare patient. High school girls and society women were more numerous, nerve strain accounting for much more of their illnesses than in the case of working girls. In fact he was convinced that thousands of girls suffer from lack of the opportunity of regular work. Work, however, he insisted must be always hygienically conducted.

He found also in his practice that the generative diseases of middle life appear in working women in no such proportion or severity as in the mental and emotional types of the upper class.

News from the Field

Syracuse Branch Holds Banquet

TWO hundred women, representing a variety of vocations, attended the annual occupational dinner of the Syracuse (New York) Branch of the National Woman's Party, in the Hiawatha room of the Onondaga, February 24. Lena Madesin Phillips, president of the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Club, and a practicing attorney, was honor guest and speaker.

She was introducted by Mrs. Lieber E. Whittic, president of the local branch of the National Woman's Party. Julie R. Jenney, formerly assistant attorney-general of the State; Marjorie Spencer Strong of Syracuse Teachers' Council; Editha Parsons, head of the department of oratory, Syracuse University and president of Zonta Club; Dr. Therest Bannon, physician, and Muriel Ready, head of the Professional Woman's League, were other speakers.

Roll was called by occupations, revealing women lawyers, insurance salesmen, florists, gift shop owners, secretaries, business managers, forewomen, newspaper women, a trade journal and fiction writer, stenographers, girls' workers, dental hygienists, political workers, manual training instructor, college girls, housewives, and a score of other vocations.

About ten years ago Miss Phillips was placed in charge of a survey of business women's organizations and was instrumental in bringing together a group of women who perfected the national federation.

Miss Phillips had so recommended herself to the group by her initiative and ability that she was chosen as executive secretary and served in that capacity through the formative years of the organization and was largely responsible for the plans and programs which have resulted today in an association of nearly 50,000 women, which is claimed to be the most representative organization of business and professional women in the world.

Besides taking degrees in law at the University of Kentucky and at New York University, she is an alumna at Goucher College and Peabody Conservatory of Music. She is a member of the executive board of the Southern Women's Educational Alliance, of Women's National Farm and Garden Association and of the Women's Civic organization. She has traveled extensively in this country and abroad and has made addresses in practically every State in the Union.

The Syracuse Branch of the National Woman's Party has just completed its pledge for the New York State Room at National Headquarters.

Washington Women Celebrate Victory

ADMINISTRATION of justice in Washington, D. C., will benefit through pasage of the bill making women eligible to jury service in the District of Columbia, Burnita Shelton Matthews of the Legal Research Department of the National Woman's Party, and president of the Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia, told members of various women's organizations at a dinner at National Woman's Party Headquarters on March 2.

Mrs. Matthews urged the women of this city not to take advantage of the clause in the bill which makes jury service optional for them.

"A woman should never ask to be allowed to be excused from jury service because it would interfere with her pink tea engagements," she said.

Maud Younger, National Legislative Chaiman of the National Woman's Party, complimented members of the local branch of the Party for their efforts in obtaining passage of the bill.

Jennie O. Berliner, who presented the bill to members of Congress, told of her work in securing passage of the bill, which was signed by President Coolidge February 26. Other speakers included Mrs. Wymond H. Bradbury, Grace Osgood, and Mrs. Harvey Wiley. Laura Berrien was toastmistress.

Women and the Immigration Laws

INTERNATIONAL co-operation to clarify and equalize nationality and citizenship laws was recommended by Dr. Henry B. Hazard, chief naturalization examiner of the Bureau of Naturalization of the United States Department of Labor at a meeting at National Woman's Party Headquarters on Sunday, March 6.

Dr. Hazard, who spoke in his private capacity rather than in his official Government capacity, explained the various sources from which citizenship is de-

rived, and the history of naturalization and expatriation. He then listed the following discriminations against women in the citizenship laws:

An American woman, native-born or naturalized, who marries an alien eligible to citizenship subjects herself to the presumption that she has renounced her citizenship if she lives two years in her husband's country, or five years in any other foreign country, while an American-born man, whether or not he is married to a foreign woman, may live abroad all his life without there being any presumption that he has lost his citizenship.

An American woman, native-born or naturalized, loses her citizenship when she marries an alien ineligible for citizenship, and renders herself ineligible to citizenship, while no American man, native-born or naturalized, has his citizenship affected by marriage to an alien woman.

The child of an American mother born in a foreign country is not a citizen of the United States, although the child of an American father born in a foreign country is an American citizen.

An American woman who married an alien before the Cable Act went into effect on September 22, 1922, or who has lived abroad in her husband's country for more than two years, has difficulty in returning to the United States to re-establish her citizenship.

Emma Wold of the United States Supreme Court Bar, and member of the Legal Research Department of the National Woman's Party, presided and introduced Dr. Hazard. She is herself an authority on the naturalization and immigration laws as they affect women. She paid a high tribute to Dr. Hazard's humanity and sense of justice in regard to the equalization of the naturalization laws, and Dr. Hazard paid a tribute to Miss Wold's scholarly knowledge of these laws, quoting her articles on the subject in EQUAL RIGHTS.

Margaret Lambie, Washington attorney and member of the National Council of the National Woman's Party, poured tea.

Maryland Defeats Equal Rights Bill

THE Maryland Free State is bitterly opposed to granting freedom to its women. On Tuesday, March 1, the two measures—making women eligible for jury service and giving them Equal Rights with men—were killed in the State Senate. These bills had been referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee, which had reported them unfavorably. Senators Hagner and Levin made splendid speeches in their efforts to have the bills substituted for the unfavorable reports, but in both cases failed to enlist the interest and support of the chivalrous Senators of Maryland.

Senator Scasser, chairman of the Judiciary Committee, in replying to Senator Levin, made the statement that the League of Women Voters had opposed the passage of the Jury Service Bill. The unfavorable reports were then adopted by a vote of 23 for and 6 against, every member of the Senate being present.

What of the women of Maryland! Are they discouraged? Never! When the Legislature convenes two years hence the Maryland Branch of the National Woman's Party will be found camping on the State House steps with their bills in their hands ready for business. In the meantime, the members are deeply grateful to Senator Alexander R. Hagner of Hagerstown, Republican floor leader, who introduced the Equal Rights measure, and to Senator Harry Levin, who sponsored the Jury Service Bill, and also to the four other members who voted against the adoption of the unfavorable report—Senators Spedden, Englar, Ensor and Naylor.

Press Comment

Woman's Rights

Dr. Frank Crane, Baltimore News, March 2, 1927.

WOMAN'S rights simply means giving women the same privileges as men and breaking the age-long slavery to which they have been subject.

There were many slave holders and slaves in the South who objected to abolition. They found the status of master and slave to be very pleasant. It doubtless was in many cases and contained many ameliorating conditions.

The condition of women is much like that of slaves. Their position is very pleasant in many cases. It is an easy thing for a woman to be "kept," that is, to be the wife or daughter of some man who is willing and anxious to support her.

The fundamental basis, however, for a good marriage is the economic independence of the woman. When she is able to stand upon her own feet she is in a much better position to drive a bargain with a man. When she is economically dependent she has to do about as he wants.

The condition of woman for many thousands of years has been that of a slave—that is, she has been kept for man's enjoyment and supported by him for that purpose.

Only emerging into the condition of being an equal and free partner she finds many obstacles. One of these is the disposition of some married women to look down upon a woman who earns her own wages.

The woman wage-earner, however, is entitled to the highest respect. She is much more independment and less liable to embarrassment than the woman who is dependent for her means of support upon a man.

No better form of life insurance could be left a woman than some sort of ability or training to do something the world is willing to pay for.

She ought to have something else to sell besides her body.

That women are capable of making a living has been demonstrated many a time. There are certain kinds of calling in which a woman is more capable than a man, and all discrimination against women earning their living should be stopped.

No person is entitled to higher regard than the woman who stands squarely on her own feet and is able to support herself.

Many women have various activities but they produce nothing that is of any account. Ages of tradition make them look down upon the wage-earner, but take it all in all the wage-earner is the one person in the world who is entitled to respect.

Olga Petrova Urges Jury Service

Washington Daily News, March 2, 1927.

OLGA PETROVA played a new role yesterday when she urged the judiciary committees of the New York Legislature in joint session to give women the right to serve on juries.

"Really, now, the brains in female skulls are little different from those of the male," she said.

"I can assure you that with women on juries there would be no such cases as the recent one against poor Mr. Browning. My own experience in being tried by a jury of men, when accused of plagiarism, has been none too happy. Honestly, I believe I lost the case because a major part of the jury was asleep during important testimony." Miss Petrova represented the National Woman's Party.

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